

**SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**ON REGENERATION, CULTURE AND**  
**ADULT EDUCATION**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor C Wilson (Chairman)  
Councillor Mottram (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Barlow, D Blood, G H Davies, Lowe, Perry, Roberts,  
Stanley, Vickers and Woodall

**Officers**

Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Lead Officer to the Committee), Chief Executive, Senior Assistant Director of Finance (Directorate of Finance, ICT and Procurement), Assistant Director of Culture and Community, Head of Executive Support Team, Principal Planning Policy Manager, Head of Economic Regeneration Delivery, Senior Personnel Officer (Directorate of the Urban Environment), Principal Policy and Performance Management Officer (Chief Executive's Directorate) and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property)

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1      **WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed Members, especially those Members newly elected to the Authority and those new to the Committee, to this the first meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year.

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2      **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor K Turner.

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3      **SUBSTITUTE MEMBER**

It was reported that Councillor Vickers had been appointed as a substitute Member for Councillor K Turner for this meeting of the Committee only.

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4      **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Woodall declared a personal interest in Agenda item 11 – the Leasowes Restoration – in that he was a member of the Friends of Leasowes.

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5      MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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6      PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public, Mr Wilkes, referred to a desktop assessment report from Birmingham Archaeology on the Mount Pleasant School site (referred to at the meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008), and asked that consideration be given to the Local Listing of the site.

The Lead Officer, in response, indicated that the matter would be drawn to the attention of the relevant Officers and that he would arrange for a copy of the report to be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

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7      CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DIRECTORATE'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007/08

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted on the Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08.

Following an introduction by the Chief Executive, and comments made by him, Members asked a number of questions and queried certain aspects of the Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2007/08 attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from the comments and questions raised, it was suggested that:-

- Whilst the content of Table 1(a) in paragraph 2.3 of the Appendix was favourable, when compared with Table 1(b) for the whole of the workforce of the Council, it was considered that a further breakdown of trends within the categories shown in the tables would be more helpful, especially when related to the Sections comprising the Directorate.
- In respect of Priority 5 – CE 5.2 – it would be helpful for Councillors, so that they were more aware, if a list of the groups referred to as unrepresented in that section could be listed.
- In respect of Priority 8 – CE 8.1 – consideration be given to the use of similar wording to that shown in section CE 8.3 as the two issues appeared to be similar.

- In respect of Priority 9 – CE 9.3 – a timescale for the introduction of the new marketing strategy currently under development, should be included. It was agreed that Councillor Lowe would receive details in respect of this point.
- Details of the gender split in respect of BME and Disabled members of the Directorate be made available and that all members of the Committee be sent copies of the figures not only for the Directorate but also for the Council as a whole.

Following comments and questions raised, the Directorate was commended for the work it had carried out in respect of equality and diversity, as evidenced in the report and Appendix submitted, in particular for the progress made.

#### RESOLVED

That, subject to the comments made above, the Chief Executive's Directorate's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08, be noted.

#### DIRECTORATE OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT'S EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

A report of the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2007/08.

Arising from an introduction of the content of the report and Appendix of the report submitted by the Head of Executive Support Team (Directorate of the Urban Environment), the Senior Personnel Officer for the Directorate highlighted aspects of the Annual Report attached as an Appendix to the report submitted.

Arising from the introduction and presentation made, a number of questions were raised and comments made. Arising from these, it was suggested that:-

- The figures referred to in Table 1(a) in paragraph 2.3 of the Appendix be broken down in relation to the Divisions of the Directorate referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the Appendix.
- The training provided to increase knowledge and understanding for employees in Bereavement Services, with particular regard to Muslim burials, be made available to those Councillors who would wish to attend such training.
- In respect of Objective DUE 2 – Equality and Diversity training, it was considered that targets for such training should be included.

- In respect of Objective DUE 8 – it was considered that more work should be done by the Directorate to encourage the use of Leisure Centre facilities by the BME community, especially women in that community, for example, by possibly, varying opening times for facilities, and to this end, more challenging targets should be introduced in respect of this objective.
- That the figures given in Table 1(a) in paragraph 2.3 of the Appendix be broken down in respect of the BME and the Disabled figures shown on a gender basis and the details circulated to all members of the Committee.

Arising from the comments and questions made, the Directorate was commended for the work undertaken and progress made in respect of equality and diversity as evidenced by the content of the report and Appendix submitted.

RESOLVED

That the Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08 be noted and that any outstanding actions arising from the Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08 be incorporated into the Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2008/09.

9

QUARTERLY CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on performance in the third quarter of 2007/08, October to December 2007, in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report, and Appendix to the report, submitted on performance in the third quarter of 2007/08, October to December 2007, in relation to the activities relating to the terms of reference of this Committee, be noted.

10

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR 2007/2008

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2007/2008.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report of the Select Committee for 2007/2008 be received and noted and referred to the Council.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09  
THE LEASOWES RESTORATION  
NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCIL 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2008 – DEVELOPMENT  
OF NEW UNIVERSITY/ UNIVERSITY CAMPUS – DUDLEY

A report of the Lead Officer to the Committee was submitted on the proposed work programme of the Committee for the 2008/09 municipal year.

The content of the proposed work programme was considered in conjunction with (1) a report of the Director of Law and Property submitted in respect of the Leasowes Restoration containing a request made by the Halesowen Area Committee at its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008, that this Committee undertake a scrutiny of the Leasowes Restoration project and (2) the content of a Notice of Motion referred by the Council at its meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008, to this Committee regarding consideration of a proposal to develop a new university/university campus in Dudley.

Arising from the consideration given to these matters, it was suggested, and agreed, that the reference to the Leisure Centre Investment Update for consideration at the meeting of this Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009, include within that report reference to usage by the community of Leisure Centres, that the Leasowes Restoration Project be considered at the September meeting of this Committee and that the new university/university campus matter be considered at the meeting in January, 2009.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the work programme of the Committee for 2008/2009 be approved, as follows:-

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>
04/06/2008	Chief Executive's Directorate Equality and Diversity Annual Report for 2007/08
	Directorate of the Urban Environment's Equality and Diversity for 2007/08
	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
	Work Programme for 2008/09
	Annual Report of the Select Committee
08/09/2008	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report

	Annual Review of Equality and Diversity
	Update on the South Black Country Innovation Campus
	Improvement Potential for Gateway Sites
	Visitor Economy Update
	Leisure Centres attached to schools
	The Leasowes Restoration Project
27/10/2008	Update of the Council's Capital Strategy
	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
	Update on Dudley Archives and Local History Service Relocation
	Update on Modernisation of Library Services
	Update on Planning Obligations
	Market Potential – flats/apartments
14.01.2009	Council Budget
	Quarterly Corporate Performance Management Report
	Update on ICT Strategy
	Leisure Centre Investment Update to include community usage of leisure centres
	Development of new University/University Campus at Dudley
04.03.2009	Dudley Borough Economic Strategy 2009/10
	Developments in Coseley and the Local Centres – Update
	Chief Executive's Directorate Equality and Diversity Action Plan 2009/10

Directorate of the Urban Environment's  
Annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan  
2009/10.

2. That no formal Working Groups be appointed in 2008/2009 but that should it be considered that a specific issue requires the appointment of a Working Group, then an ad-hoc Working Group be appointed on a time limited basis to consider the specific issue and report back to the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.45pm

CHAIRMAN